

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 NIC-01 EB-07 SAJ-01 AGR-05

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W
----- 069774

R 150801Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 971

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ET, MU, XF

SUBJECT: OMAN GOV ATTITUDE RE WAR IN ERITREA

REF: STATE 52676

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES RECEIPT OF REFTEL, CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE PASSED ORALLY TO UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. LATTER MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) OMANGOV RELATIVELY UNINFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA, BUT DESIROUS OF KEEPING IN STEP WITH ITS "FRIENDS"-- E.G. U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING USG ATTITUDE AND POLICY TOWARD ERITREAN REBELS. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT CIVIL WAR WAS INTERNAL MATTER, BUT USG EVALUATION (PARA 4 REFTEL) WAS THAT BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR COMPROMISE STOPPING SHORT
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OF INDEPENDENCE.

B) SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER "CONSERVATIVES" WILL CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT TO ELF/PLF ON THEORY THAT, SHOULD REBELLION SUCCEED, INDEPENDENT ERITREA SHOULD HAVE ALTERNATIVE TO USSR AND RADICAL ARABS.

C) SOMALIS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND, "SINCE SOMALIA NOW ACCEPTED AS ARAB COUNTRY...", MOGADISCIO REGIME PRESSURING FOR BROAD ARAB SUPPORT. (ALTHOUGH UNDERSECRETARY DIDN'T SAY SO, EMBOFF GATHERS THAT OMANIS MAY HAVE MADE SOME VAGUE COMMITMENT TO SOMALIS AT TIME OF FONMIN GHALIB'S VISIT--MUSCAT 153-- AND NOW ARE SEARCHING FOR A REASON OR WAY TO BACK OFF.)

2. ACCODING TO SOURCE, ENTIRE ISSUE LIKELY TO BE RAISED NEXT WEEK DURING COURSE OF FIRST VISIT TO OMAN BY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL, MAHMOUD RIAD.
WOLLE

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